



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : A61K 7/00	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/49996 (43) International Publication Date: 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)																														
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04497 (22) International Filing Date: 23 February 2000 (23.02.00) (30) Priority Data: 9904557.7 26 February 1999 (26.02.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE GILLETTE COMPANY [US/US]; Prudential Tower Building, Boston, MA 02199 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CAUSTON, Brian, Edward [GB/GB]; Flat 3, 9B Sidmouth Street, Reading Berkshire RG1 4QX (GB). TAVERN, Sydney, Christopher [GB/GB]; 61 Swainstone Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0DX (GB). (74) Agents: HANDELMAN, Joseph, H.; Ladas & Parry, 26 West 61st Street, New York, NY 10023 (US) et al.		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>																														
(54) Title: DEODORANT COMPOSITIONS <div style="text-align: center;">Coryneforms</div> <table border="1"><caption>Approximate data from Coryneforms graph</caption><thead><tr><th>Time (hours)</th><th>Control (A)</th><th>Triclosan (B)</th><th>2.5% (C)</th><th>10% (D)</th><th>20% (E)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>0</td><td>5.0</td><td>5.0</td><td>5.0</td><td>5.0</td><td>5.0</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3.2</td><td>1.8</td><td>2.2</td><td>1.8</td><td>1.0</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>4.4</td><td>3.1</td><td>3.0</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.2</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.1</td><td>3.0</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.2</td></tr></tbody></table> (57) Abstract <p>A deodorant composition for topical application, which comprises a plurality of particles dispersed and a carrier, each particle comprising a glass microsphere at least partially coated with zinc oxide, a zinc salt, or any mixture of two or more thereof.</p>			Time (hours)	Control (A)	Triclosan (B)	2.5% (C)	10% (D)	20% (E)	0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	2	3.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.0	7	4.4	3.1	3.0	1.5	1.2	24	4.5	4.1	3.0	1.5	1.2
Time (hours)	Control (A)	Triclosan (B)	2.5% (C)	10% (D)	20% (E)																											
0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0																											
2	3.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.0																											
7	4.4	3.1	3.0	1.5	1.2																											
24	4.5	4.1	3.0	1.5	1.2																											

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

DEODORANT COMPOSITIONS

This invention relates to deodorant compositions.

Zinc oxide is known to have bactericidal properties, and has been widely used in deodorant compositions. It is believed to work by the zinc ions of the zinc oxide going into solution in the outer layer of the skin, where they kill microorganisms by preventing enzymes therein from functioning properly.

Inhalation of zinc oxide particles smaller than about 10 micrometers can cause adverse reactions in humans and animals. For this reason, many countries have adopted Health and Safety legislation forbidding the use of zinc oxide particles smaller than 10 micrometers in aerosols. This places a lower limit on the size of zinc oxide particles that can be used in aerosol deodorant compositions.

Although zinc oxide particles can easily be made to a size greater than 10 micrometers, such particles appear as a white powder and are considered unsightly. In order to avoid this white appearance it would be necessary to use a zinc oxide particle size below 10 micrometers, but this would not be permitted under the legislation referred to above.

We have now devised some deodorant compositions containing zinc oxide, or a zinc salt, whereby one or more of a number of advantages over prior known compositions can be obtained including, if desired, the advantage of substantially transparent zinc oxide (or zinc salt) without the need to use particles having a size below 10 micrometers.

According to one aspect of the invention, we provide a deodorant composition for topical application, which comprises a plurality of particles which each comprise a glass microsphere at least partially coated with a zinc compound sintered to the glass microsphere, the zinc compound being selected from zinc oxide, a zinc salt or any mixture of two or more thereof, said particles being dispersed in a carrier.

Spherical particles comprising a zinc oxide coating are known. Thus, US-A-5407743 describes electromechanical devices such as transducers which comprise glass spheres of size 1 to 500 microns coated with zinc oxide. The zinc oxide coating is formed by applying a zinc oxide precursor to the spheres and then contacting the coated spheres with an oxidizing agent to form a zinc oxide coating

on the spheres.

J. Soc. Cosmet. Chem., 41, 197-207 (May/June 1990) describes a mechanochemical process wherein fine particle zinc oxide is mixed with spherical resin cores to provide a hybrid powder of cores with their surfaces uniformly covered with zinc oxide. The powder has deodorizing qualities.

In the compositions of the present invention, the microspheres may be coated only with zinc oxide, or with both zinc oxide and a zinc salt, or with a salt alone (mixtures of two or more salts can be used). We prefer that the coating comprises zinc oxide and a salt since then the bactericidal activity of the zinc oxide is enhanced and the product remains active for an extended period. If the coating consists only of one or more zinc salts with no zinc oxide present, the active bactericidal life of the coating is usually relatively short. If the coating consists of zinc oxide alone, its bactericidal activity is not as great as when a zinc salt is also present.

The preferred zinc salts are those which can be made by reacting a zinc oxide coating with an acid to form the salt *in situ* on the microspheres. Preferably, the zinc salts are only sparingly soluble in water so that they are not quickly removed by contact with water. The preferred salts are made by reacting the zinc oxide with a carboxylic acid or a substituted phenol. Examples of the preferred salts are the acetate, pidolate, pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate, cinnamate, citrate and glycinate, but these are merely illustrative of the many possible salts which can advantageously be used.

The compositions according to the invention may also contain at least one further bactericide in addition to the zinc oxide or zinc salt.

The colour of the particles depends upon the colour of the glass microsphere core, because the layer of the zinc compound (by which we mean zinc oxide and/or one or more zinc salts) will be substantially transparent, provided that it is thin enough. This makes it possible to provide a deodorant composition which has the bactericidal advantages of zinc oxide without the white appearance normally associated with deodorant compositions containing zinc oxide particles larger than 10 microns. In order to comply with legislation relating to the size of zinc oxide particles in aerosols, the glass microspheres would normally have a minimum

diameter of about 10 micrometers, although for other uses, they may of course be smaller, eg. down to 5 micrometers or less. We have found that, in order to obtain good transparency, it is preferable that the diameter of the glass microspheres should not exceed about 50 micrometers. However, greater diameters can be used, for
5 example up to 150 micrometers or more.

In order to prepare the zinc oxide coated microspheres of the invention, it is important to control the reaction temperature closely. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, we provide a method of coating glass microspheres with zinc oxide, which method comprises heating an agitated mixture
10 of the glass microspheres and a zinc compound in a liquid reaction medium to form a milky suspension of colloidal zinc oxide, and further heating the suspension to 190°C to 200°C to deposit the zinc oxide as an adherent coating sintered on the glass microspheres. We have found that if the temperature is outside this range, then either the yield of zinc oxide or the adherence of the coating, or both, will be
15 generally unsatisfactory.

We have also found that heating in two stages, at two different temperatures, provides the best combination of adhesion and yield. Accordingly, we prefer to form the milky suspension by heating the mixture to 140°C to 160°C, preferably for 1 to 3 hours. Then, we prefer to heat for a further 1 to 3 hours to
20 deposit said coating at 190° to 200°C.

The method of the invention is carried out in a liquid reaction medium. This should have a high enough dielectric constant that it dissolves the zinc compound, and also a high enough boiling point to allow the high temperatures to be obtained to produce the zinc oxide and allow sintering of the coating on the
25 surface of the glass microspheres. Among the preferred such solvents are the glycols, particularly (but not exclusively) diethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol and poly(ethylene glycol). Diethylene glycol has a dielectric constant of 31.7 at 20°C and a boiling point of 245°C. Poly(ethylene glycol) of molecular weight 300 has a dielectric constant of 37.7 at 20°C and a boiling point of 198°C.

30 Any zinc compound can be used which will hydrolyse in the process to yield zinc oxide. The preferred zinc compounds are the carboxylates (other than the oxalate), most preferably the acetate. The chloride and sulphate are not used

since zinc oxide is not readily formed therefrom in glycol solutions. As will be clear to those skilled in the art, the suitability of any particular zinc compound can be ascertained by routine trial and experiment.

When the zinc compound used is zinc acetate dihydrate, we prefer the glycol to be diethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol or poly(ethylene glycol) of molecular weight 300 (PEG Mr 300). The use of these glycols leads to the formation of the zinc oxide as a single phase which is preferred. Other glycols can also be used although some may lead to the formation of the less desirable impure multiphase compounds. In general, any glycol can be used but we prefer to use one of the above three or any mixture of two or all three thereof.

According to a further feature of the invention, when it is desired that the coating on the microspheres should comprise a zinc salt, the salt can be formed *in situ* by reacting the zinc oxide coating with an acid. We prefer to form a layer of a zinc salt at the exposed surface of the zinc oxide, so that the product comprises microspheres with a zinc oxide coating having zinc salt thereon. However, if desired, the whole of the zinc oxide can be reacted with acid so that the product then comprises microspheres with zinc salt coatings (and no zinc oxide).

The zinc oxide coating of the invention comprises submicron primary particles or crystallites of the zinc oxide with diameters in the region of, for example, about 30nm. These colloidal particles aggregate and form particulate clusters with diameters in the range of about 0.3 to about 0.5 micrometers. The size of the primary particles can be controlled by varying the reaction temperature as described more fully hereinafter.

It is usually preferred for the compositions of the invention to be transparent, in which case the glass microspheres are preferably substantially transparent. However, there may be circumstances in which it is desirable for the composition to have a particular colour. It is possible to provide the composition with a desired colour by using glass microspheres having the desired colour.

The compositions according to the invention may be provided in any convenient form suitable for topical application. For example, the compositions may be provided in the form of an aerosol, roll-on, gel, stick, cream, lotion or pump spray formulation.

In the compositions of the invention, the carrier is preferably a dermatologically acceptable vehicle such as, for example, a polyhydric alcohol, a silicone, ethanol, water etc. or any mixture of two or more thereof.

The compositions of the invention may be formulated into topical
5 compositions such as aerosols, pump sprays, roll-ons, lotions, creams, gels, sticks etc. In particular, aqueous suspensions of the zinc oxide particles and salts may be directly utilized in oil-in-water and water-in-oil emulsions, such as the currently popular clear gel formulations, or in other aqueous based compositions such as aqueous based roll-ons. The compositions of the invention may be formulated into
10 any known type of topical composition which utilizes powdered salts including, in particular, aerosol, liquid roll-on, cream and solid stick formulations in which the powdered salt is suspended in an anhydrous, dermatologically acceptable carrier, particularly a carrier comprising a silicone.

It will be appreciated that the precise formulation of the deodorant
15 compositions will depend upon the type of deodorant composition which is desired. Thus, an aerosol formulation will contain predominantly a propellant, such as CAP30 propellant; a stick type formulation will typically contain predominantly propylene glycol; a roll-on formulation will typically contain predominantly cyclomethicone; and a gel formulation will typically contain predominantly water
20 and propylene glycol. The deodorant compositions according to the invention may include any of the materials conventionally used in deodorant formulations. The compositions of the invention may comprise, in addition to the zinc oxide coated particles, other different particles.

The deodorant compositions according to the invention will contain
25 sufficient zinc compound coated microspheres to reduce or prevent malodour when applied to the skin. Typically, they will contain from 0.1 to 25 wt% of the zinc compound coated microspheres. It is preferred that the compositions comprise 5 to 15 wt% of the zinc compound coated microspheres, more preferably up to about 10 wt%.

30 In accordance with another aspect of the invention, we provide an aerosol, roll-on, gel or pump spray device which includes a deodorant composition as described above.

According to another aspect of the invention we provide the use of particles comprising glass microspheres coated with a zinc compound as a deodorant in compositions for topical application. The particles may have the features of the particles of the deodorant composition described above.

5 Reference is now made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a graph of log [colony forming units per cm²] versus time for coryneform bacteria; and

Fig. 2 is a graph of log [colony forming units per cm²] versus time for staphylococci bacteria.

10 The invention will now be described with reference to the following Examples.

EXAMPLE 1

Zinc acetate dihydrate (44g) and sodalime glass microspheres (22g) were added to a 1 litre reaction kettle containing 500 ml of diethylene glycol. The
15 sodalime glass microspheres were obtained from Croxton & Gary under the trade name Spheriglass 2000 cpo, and had a diameter in the range 10 to 50 micrometers.

A flanged lid with a propeller type stirring paddle was placed over the reaction kettle. The kettle was then placed in an oil bath and subjected to a heating cycle of 2 hours at 150°C followed by 2 hours at 190°C. On completion of
20 the heating, the kettle was removed from the oil bath and the diethylene glycol was decanted off. The remaining zinc oxide coated glass microspheres were filtered and washed in ethanol. The coated microspheres were then dried at room temperature.

A sample of the microspheres was coated with gold, then subjected to
25 SEM analysis. This showed that the zinc oxide is present as clusters of primary particles.

These zinc oxide clusters consist of aggregates of much smaller zinc oxide primary particles. The primary particles are nm sized, and they are aggregated together to form the larger sub-micron sized (eg. 0.3-0.5 µm) clusters.

30 The zinc oxide coated microspheres prepared by this method can be used to form a variety of deodorant compositions, as exemplified in Examples 2 to 5.

EXAMPLE 2

An aerosol type deodorant was prepared from the following materials:

	CAP30 propellant	80 wt%
	ZnO coated microspheres	2.5 wt%
5	Ethanol	11.5 wt%
	Volatile silicone DC245	6 wt%

EXAMPLE 3

A stick type deodorant was prepared from the following materials:

	Water	12 wt%
10	Propylene glycol	71 wt%
	Sodium stearate	8 wt%
	ZnO coated microspheres	8 wt%
	Perfume	1 wt%

EXAMPLE 4

15 A suspension roll-on type deodorant was prepared from the following materials:

	Cyclomethicone	86 wt%
	ZnO coated microspheres	8 wt%
	Ethanol	2.5 wt%
20	Quaternium 18 Hectorite	2 wt%
	Perfume	1.5 wt%

EXAMPLE 5

A gel type deodorant was prepared from the following materials:

	Water	25.25 wt%
25	Sorbitol	14 wt%
	Ethanol	12 wt%
	Propylene glycol	22.5 wt%
	ZnO coated microspheres	8 wt%
	Dimethicone (DC-225)	10 wt%
30	Cyclomethicone & dimethicone copolyol	8 wt%
	Perfume	0.25 wt%

EXAMPLE 6

A modified zinc oxide coating was prepared by reacting the ZnO coated microspheres with eugenol (4-allyl-2-methoxyphenol). The following formulation was prepared:

5	Acetone	89 wt%
	Eugenol	5 wt%
	ZnO coated microspheres	4 wt%
	Distilled water	2 wt%

The formulation was stirred at room temperature for 48 hours, then
10 the modified ZnO coated microspheres were isolated by filtration, washed and dried at room temperature.

EXAMPLE 7

A modified zinc oxide coating was prepared by reacting the ZnO coated microspheres with pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic acid. The following formulation
15 was prepared:

Pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic acid	5 wt%
ZnO coated microspheres	4 wt%
Distilled water	91 wt%

The formulation was stirred at room temperature for 48 hours, then
20 the modified ZnO coated microspheres were isolated by filtration, washed and dried at room temperature.

EXAMPLE 8

An in-vivo method, known as the Williamson and Kligman surface scrub, was used to demonstrate the antimicrobial properties of the following five
25 compositions:

- (A) A control composition comprising ethanol/volatile silicone
- (B) A composition comprising ethanol/volatile silicone and 0.3 wt% of a well known deodorant known as Triclosan (2,4,4'-trichloro-2-hydroxybiphenyl ether). This concentration is the highest amount of Triclosan that can be used
30 without skin irritation.
- (C) A composition according to the invention comprising ethanol/volatile silicone containing 2.5 wt% of the zinc oxide coated particles obtained by

the method of Example 1.

(D) A composition according to the invention comprising ethanol/volatile silicone containing 10 wt% of the zinc oxide coated particles obtained by the method of Example 1.

5 (E) A composition according to the invention comprising ethanol/volatile silicone containing 20 wt% of the zinc oxide coated particles obtained by the method of Example 1.

In all the above compositions, the ratio of ethanol to silicone was 70/30, and there were substantially no other components present except those
10 indicated.

The test was designed to measure the growth of the bacteria staphylococci and coryneforms in the axilla of each member of a group of participants. These two types of bacteria are primarily responsible for the development of odours.

15 Initially, a sample of bacteria was removed from the axilla of each participant. A 0.5 ml aliquot of various deodorant compositions was then applied to the axilla of the participants, and further bacteria samples were removed after 2, 7 and 24 hours. The level of coryneforms and staphylococci in each sample were then measured.

20 Bacteria level counts were obtained for each sample, and the change in bacteria levels with time is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The black dotted line represents the level of bacteria at which odours start to become detectable. It is clear that compositions (C), (D) and (E) are substantially more effective than compositions (A) or (B). The results show that compositions (C), (D) and (E) were
25 effective against coryneforms for up to 24 hours. Furthermore, the compositions (C), (D) and (E) did not cause any skin irritation.

C L A I M S

1. A deodorant composition for topical application, which comprises a plurality of particles which each comprise a glass microsphere at least partially coated with a zinc compound sintered to the glass microsphere, the zinc compound
5 being selected from zinc oxide, a zinc salt or any mixture of two or more thereof, said particles being dispersed in a carrier.
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises zinc oxide and a zinc salt.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the zinc salt is zinc
10 pidolate, zinc acetate, zinc eugolate, zinc pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate, zinc cinnamate, zinc citrate or zinc glycinate.
4. A composition according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the zinc salt is formed by contacting a zinc oxide coating on the microspheres with an acid.
5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein the acid is a carboxylic
15 acid or a phenol.
6. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 5, which also contains at least one further bactericide in addition to the zinc oxide.
7. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the glass microspheres have a diameter of from 5 to 150 micrometers.
- 20 8. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the glass microspheres have a diameter of from 10 to 50 micrometers.
9. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the zinc oxide or zinc salt is present in the coating in particle clusters of a diameter from 0.3 to 0.5 micrometers.
- 25 10. A composition according to claim 8, wherein said particles are substantially transparent.
11. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the carrier is a dermatologically acceptable vehicle.
12. A composition according to claim 11, wherein the carrier comprises a
30 polyhydric alcohol, a silicone, ethanol, water or any combination of two or more thereof.
13. A composition according to claim 11 or 12, which contains from 0.01

to 10% by weight of said particles.

14. A composition according to any preceding claim, which is in the form of an aerosol, roll-on, gel, stick, cream, lotion or pump spray formulation.

15. A deodorant composition for topical application which comprises
5 glass microspheres having a zinc-containing coating, substantially as herein described in any of the Examples.

16. The use of particles comprising glass microspheres having sintered thereto a coating of zinc oxide, a zinc salt or any mixture of two or more thereof, as a deodorant in compositions for topical application.

10 17. The use according to claim 15, wherein the particles are as defined in any of claims 2 to 10.

18. An aerosol, roll-on, gel, stick, cream, lotion or pump spray device which includes a composition according to any of claims 1 to 15.

19. An aerosol stick, roll-on or gel type deodorant substantially as herein
15 described in any of Examples 2 to 5.

20. A method of preventing or reducing malodour which comprises applying to the skin a deodorant composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15.

21. A method of coating glass microspheres with zinc oxide, which method comprises heating an agitated mixture of glass microspheres, and a zinc
20 compound in a liquid reaction medium, to form a milky suspension of colloidal zinc oxide, and further heating the suspension to 190°C to 200°C to deposit the zinc oxide as an adherent coating sintered on the glass microspheres.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein the mixture is heated to 140°C to 160°C to form said milky suspension.

25 23. A method according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the liquid reaction medium comprises a glycol.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the glycol is diethylene glycol or poly(ethylene glycol).

25. A method according to claim 21, 22, 23 or 24, wherein the mixture is
30 heated for 1 to 3 hours to form said suspension, and for a further 1 to 3 hours to deposit said coating.

26. A method of coating glass microspheres with zinc oxide substantially

as herein described with reference to Example 1.

27. A method of coating glass microspheres with a zinc salt which comprises coating glass microspheres with zinc oxide by the method claimed in any of claims 21 to 26, and then contacting the coating with an acid to form thereon a
5 zinc salt.

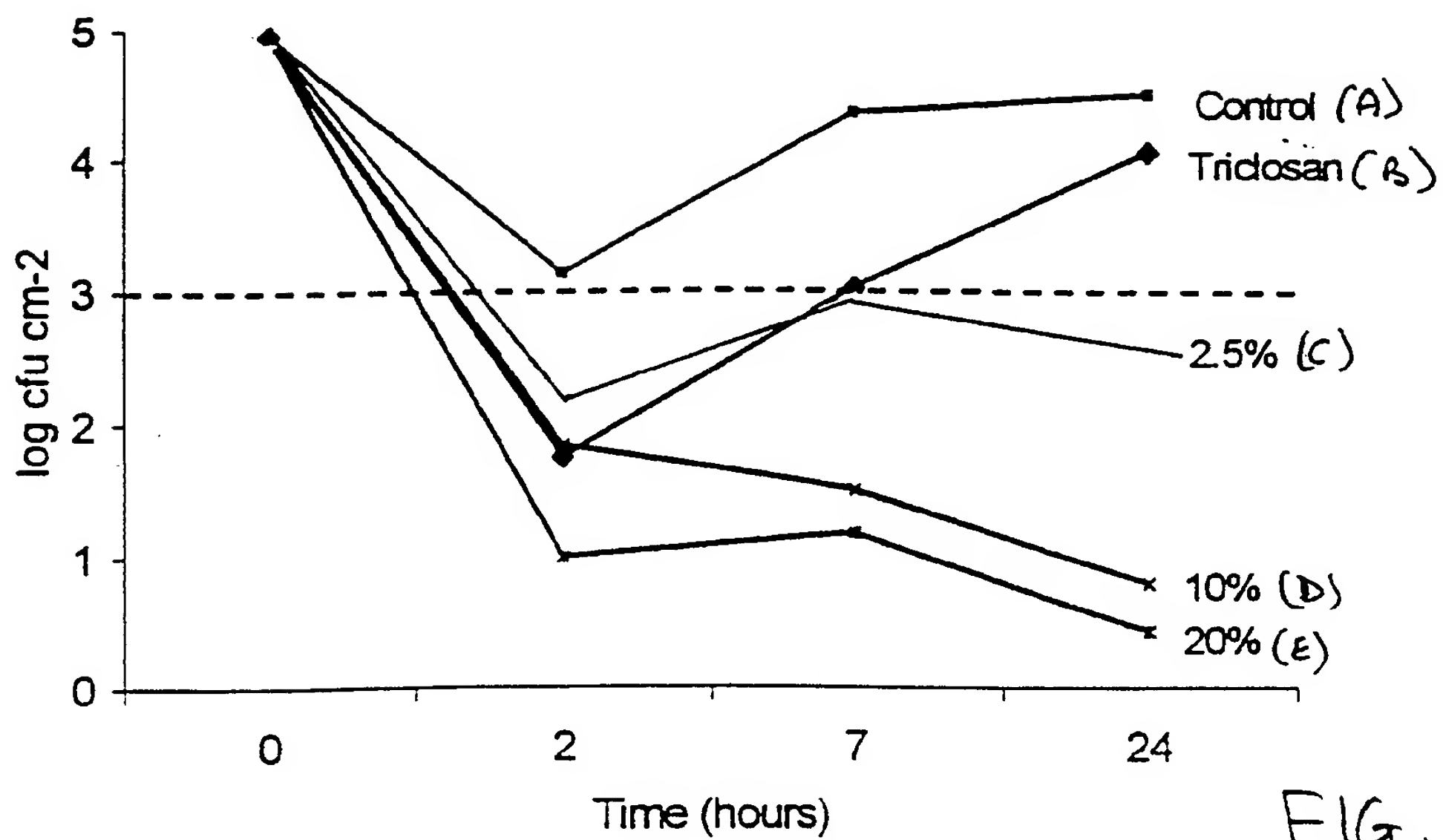
28. A method according to claim 27, wherein only part of the zinc oxide coating is converted to a zinc salt.

29. A method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the acid is a carboxylic acid or a phenol.

10 30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the carboxylic acid is pidolic acid, acetic acid, euginol, pyrrolidone-S-carboxylic acid, cinnamic acid, citric acid or glycine.

31. A method according to claim 27, 28, 29 or 30, wherein after forming the zinc salt on the microspheres, they are washed with water without removal of
15 the salt.

32. A method according to claim 27, substantially as herein described in Example 6 or 7.

Coryneforms**Staphylococci**